

The THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

BULLETIN SEVENTY-EIGHT

WINTER, 1962

THE THOREAU CENTENNIAL

1962 marks the centennial of the death of Henry David Thoreau. The Thoreau Society is marking that centennial with a special meeting at the Pierpont Morgan Library on Saturday May 5th. Details of that meeting are given in a special insert mailed out with this bulletin. (This will not take the place of the annual meeting, which will be held as usual in Concord, Mass., on Saturday, July 14th--details of which will be announced in a later bulletin.)

A special Western Thoreau Centenary will be held at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, on June 20-23. Dr. J. Golden Taylor, Chairman, sends the following announcement:

"During this centennial year of the death of Henry David Thoreau Utah State University wishes to join with the many other institutions and groups throughout the world which are paying formal tribute to him for his enduring contributions to mankind as nature writer, poet, prose stylist, social philosopher--and, what is likely more rare--as a great American and a superb human being. The University is pleased to make this gesture of recognition by acting as host to A WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING OF THE THOREAU SOCIETY and by sponsoring at this meeting lectures dealing with Thoreau's life and thought.

"Dr. Walter Harding, about whom nothing needs to be said to members of the Society, has been engaged as the featured lecturer. The titles of his three lectures are: "The Influence of Civil Disobedience," "An Analysis of *Walden*," and "Thoreau's Last Days." Dr. Taylor will deliver two lectures: "Thoreau and the Integrity of the Individual" and "Thoreau and the Un-Common Man." Dr. Joseph Wood Krutch of Arizona and Dr. Olaus J. Murie of Wyoming have been invited to participate. There are still places on the program for a few short papers, and members of the Society who think they might be able to attend are invited to submit titles for consideration.

"Members of the Thoreau Society from East and West alike are cordially invited to attend this Western Thoreau Centenary and combine it with a Western vacation. Logan affords adequate accommodations, has a fine summer climate, and is located in a region of many National Parks and other places of unusual natural beauty. Many people find a peculiar charm in the Western deserts though some can appreciate them no more than one of Thoreau's neighbors did his poor hill-farm which was, he told Thoreau, 'only fit to hold the world together.' (VII, 213)"

We understand that there are also to be a number of special library exhibitions to mark the centennial including ones at Harvard University, in Tokyo

The Thoreau Society Inc. is an informal organization of students and followers of Henry D. Thoreau. Officers include Prof. Lewis Leary, Columbia University, New York City, president; Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and Walter Harding, State University, Geneseo, N.Y., secretary-treasurer. Annual membership is two dollars; life, twenty-five.

Japan; Paris, France; Oslo University Library in Norway. Please keep the secretary informed of any other exhibitions or meetings that are scheduled to be held.

THE DR. FRED PIPER THOREAU COLLECTION . . .

Dr. Fred S. Piper of Lexington, Mass., the first vice president of the Thoreau Society at its establishment in 1941, has given to the Cary Memorial Library in Lexington, Mass., his personal collection of 230 volumes of Thoreauiana. It includes a complete set of Thoreau first editions plus many other rare items. The collection will be maintained as a unit and will be available only for reference within the library.

THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION AND ANSWER BOX . . . WH

One of the most interesting parts of your secretary's work is the answering (or attempting to answer) the constant stream of questions about Thoreau and the Thoreau Society that arrive in the mail. Here are a few of the questions that have arrived in recent months:

1. Has anyone ever repeated Thoreau's voyage on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers? Yes, at least three have. Mr. Robert Evans reported on his retracing of Thoreau's voyage in a series of articles in the BOSTON GLOBE for Sept. 11-17, 1960. Francis Russell reported on his trip in an article in the June, 1956 APPALACHIA. And Edwin Way Teale told of his trip in a chapter of his LOST WOODS (Dodd, Mead, 1945).

2. Where did Thoreau say, "Most of the luxuries, and many of the so-called comforts, of life are not only indispensable, but positive hindrances to the elevation of mankind"? In the nineteenth paragraph of WALDEN, but he had an additional and important "not" after the word "only."

3. Can you complete a quotation from Thoreau that starts "The enrichment of life through the multiplication of wants..."? No, we can't. Can anyone help us?

4. When did Thoreau's sister Helen die? Some books (including my own THOREAU HANDBOOK !) give May 2, 1849. But the Concord town records and the family gravestone give it as June 14, 1849. Since Emerson, in a letter of June 18, 1849, speaks of his wife's just returning from the funeral, I think we can assume June 14th is the correct date.

5. Where did Thoreau say, "The weakness of public opinion is that so many people express it only privately"? This one sticks us too. Can

anyone help us out?

6. Mrs. Annie R. Marble, in her *THOREAU: HIS HOME, FRIENDS AND BOOKS*, p. 45, speaks of some unpublished letters of Helen Thoreau. Where are these letters now? We don't know the answer. Can anyone help?

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY WH

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- Allen, Francis H. "Historia y Reminiscencia de los Compiladores de Thoreau." *CENIT*, XI (Aug. 1961), 3444-3450. *THOREAU SOCIETY BOOKLET #7* trans. into Spanish.
- Atkinson, Brooks. "Spirit of Frugal Thoreau Resists Efforts to Get His Bust Installed in Hall of Fame." *NEW YORK TIMES*. Jan. 19, 1962.
- Bliven, Bruce. "Mr. Thoreau of Walden Pond." *READER'S DIGEST*, LXXIX (Dec., 1961), 225-234.
- Erophy, Liam. "Thoreau: Franciscan Mystic" in *ECHOS OF ASSISI* (Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1958), pp. 160-165.
- Cameron, Kenneth W. "Annotations on Thoreau's CORRESPONDENCE," *EMERSON SOC. QUART.*, XXIV (1961), 6-105. Detailed footnotes for the 1958 edition.
- Davis, Grace S. "Thoreau's Cats," *CATS MAGAZINE*, XVIII (Sept. 1961), 9-42. Excerpts on cats from Thoreau's journals.
- , "The Cats of Thoreau." *CATS MAGAZINE*, XVIII (Oct. 1961), 7. Continuation of above.
- d'Amato, Guy Albert. "Henry David Thoreau (July 12, 1817-1862): The Devil's Grandchild." *MINORITY OF ONE*, III (July, 1961), 9. A brief essay in praise of Thoreau's spirit of defiance and revolt.
- Derleth, August. "In the End Was His Beginning." *HAWK & WHIPPORWILL*, VI (Spring, 1962). A poem on Thoreau's death.
- Fleck, Richard. *THOREAU: A NATIONAL LITERATURE*. Unpublished M.A. thesis at Colorado State University, 1961.
- Green, Gerald. *THE LAST ANGRY MAN*. New York: Pocket Books, 1959. A novel in which the central character frequently quotes Thoreau.
- Harding, Walter. *A THOREAU HANDBOOK*. New York: New York University Press, 1961. 230pp. \$1.95. Gotham Library paperback edition of a book first published in 1959.
- Hoff, Rhoda. "Henry David Thoreau." in *WHY THEY WROTE*. New York: Henry Z. Walck, Inc., 1961. \$3.50. pp. 31-59. A well-written essay, aimed at teen-agers, on Thoreau as a professional writer. It not only outlines his writing career, but also quotes many of his comments on the art of writing, and ends with an extensive quotation from *CAPE COD* as a sample of his writing. A good, mature approach to Thoreau and one that adults as well as young people should find stimulating.
- Hosmer, Gladys E. H. "Some Notable Concord Women." *CONCORD JOURNAL*. Nov. 9 & 16, 1961. Brief biographical studies of a number of Thoreau's female contemporaries and neighbors.
- Loomis, C. Grant. *A WALK IN CONCORD: IN MEMORIAM HENRY DAVID THOREAU 1817-1862*. Fort Bragg, Calif.: Gull Press, 1961. 12pp. A moving poetical tribute to Thoreau.
- Metzger, Charles R. *THOREAU AND WHITMAN: A STUDY OF THEIR ESTHETICS*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 1961. 113pp. \$4.25. A sequel to Prof. Metzger's *EMERSON AND GREENOUGH*, this little volume continues his study of the Transcendentalists!

THE FORESTER.

Then bless thy secret growth, nor catch
At aise, but thrive unseen and dumb,
Keep clean, bear fruit, earn life, and watch
Till the white-winged reapers come.—HENRY VAUGHAN.

I HAD never thought of knowing a man so thoroughly of the country as this friend of mine, and so purely a son of Nature. Perhaps he has the profoundest passion for it of any one living; and had the human sentiment been as tender from the first, and as pervading, we might have had pastorals of which Virgil and Theocritus would have envied him the authorship, had they chanced to be his contemporaries. As it is, he has come nearer the antique spirit than any of our native poets, and touched the fields and groves and streams of his native town with a classic interest that shall not fade. Some of his verses are suffused with an elegiac tenderness, as if the woods and fields bewailed the absence of their forester, and murmured their griefs meanwhile to one another,—responsive like idyls. Living in close companionship with Nature, his Muse breathes the spirit and voice of poetry; his excellence lying herein: for when the heart is once divorced from the senses and all sympathy with common things, then poetry has fled, and the love that sings.

The most welcome of companions, this plain countryman. One shall not meet with thoughts invigorating like his often: coming so scented of mountain and field breezes and rippling springs, so like a luxuriant clod from under forest-leaves, moist and mossy with earth-spirits. His presence is tonic, like ice-water in dog-days to the parched citizen pent in chambers and under brazen ceilings. Welcome as the gurgle of brooks, the dripping of pitchers,—then drink and he cool! He seems one with things, of Nature's essence and core, knit of strong timbers, most like a wood and its inhabitants. There are in him sod and shade, woods and waters manifold,

the mould and mist of earth and sky. Self-poised and sagacious as any denizen of the elements, he has the key to every animal's brain, every plant, every shrub; and were an Indian to flower forth, and reveal the secrets hidden in his cranium, it would not be more surprising than the speech of our Sylvanus. He must belong to the Homeric age,—is older than pastures and gardens, as if he were of the race of heroes, and one with the elements. He, of all men, seems to be the native New-Englander, as much so as the oak, the granite ledge, our best sample of an indigenous American, untouched by the Old Country, unless he came down from Thor, the Northman; as yet unfathered by any, and a non-descript in the hooks of natural history.

A peripatetic philosopher, and out of doors for the best parts of his days and nights, he has manifold weather and seasons in him, and the manners of an animal of probity and virtues unstained. Of our moralists he seems the wholesomest; and the best republican citizen in the world,—always at home, and minding his own affairs. Perhaps a little over-confident sometimes, and stiffly individual, dropping society clean out of his theories, while standing friendly in his strict sense of friendship, there is in him an integrity and sense of justice that make possible and actual the virtues of Sparta and the Stoics, and all the more welcome to us in these times of shuffling and of pusillanimity. Plutarch would have made him immortal in his pages, had he lived before his day. Nor have we any so modern as he,—his own and ours; too purely so to be appreciated at once. A scholar by birth-right, and an author, his fame has not yet travelled far from the banks of the rivers he has described in his books; but I haz-

BRONSON ALCOTT'S "THE FORESTER" . . .



There is no more appropriate way to mark the beginning of the Thoreau Centennial than by herewith reprinting that beautiful tribute to Thoreau by his old friend and neighbor Bronson Alcott. "The Forester" appeared just one hundred years ago, a few weeks before Thoreau's death, in the April, 1862, *ATLANTIC MONTHLY*. Although Thoreau is not mentioned directly by name in the article, the references to Walden Pond, to a book about the Merrimack, and to the pun on the god Thor, made it perfectly obvious to any who knew at all about Thoreau to whom the tribute was written. That such knowledge was general is indicated in a clipping from an unidentified newspaper of 1862, now in the collection of Mr. George Davenport Jr. of Los Angeles, Calif., which calls attention to the general public that the essay was indeed a tribute to Thoreau.

The lines at the close of the essay are by Thoreau's closest friend, Ellery Channing.

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and only the truth in affirming of his prose, that in substance and sense it surpasses that of any naturalist of his time, and that he is sure of a reading in the future. There are fairer fishes in his pages than any now swimming in our streams, and some sleep of his on the banks of the Merrimack by moonlight that Egypt never rivalled; a morning of which Memnon might have envied the music, and a greyhound that was meant for Adonis; some frogs, too, better than any of Aristophanes. Perhaps we have had no eyes like his since Pliny's time. His senses seem double, giving him access to secrets not easily read by other men: his sagacity resembling that of the beaver and the bee, the dog and the deer; an instinct for seeing and judging, as by some other or seventh sense, dealing with objects as if they were shooting forth from his own mind mythologically, thus completing Nature all round to his senses, and a creation of his at the moment. I am sure he knows the animals, one by one, and everything else knowable in our town, and has named them rightly as Adam did in Paradise, if he be not that ancestor himself. His works are pieces of exquisite sense, celebrations of Nature's virginity, exemplified by rare learning and original observations. Persistently independent and manly, he criticizes men and times largely, urging and defending his opinions with the spirit and pertinacity befitting a descendant of him of the Hammer. A head of mixed genealogy like his, Franco-Norman crossed by Scottish and New-England descent, may be forgiven a few characteristic peculiarities and trenchant traits of thinking, amidst his great common sense and fidelity to the core of natural things. Seldom has a head circumscribed so much of the sense of Cosmos as this footed intelligence,—nothing less than all out-of-doors sufficing his genius and scopes, and, day by day, through all weeks and seasons, the year round.

If one would find the wealth of wit there is in this plain man, the information, the sagacity, the poetry, the piety,

let him take a walk with him, say of a winter's afternoon, to the Blue Water, or anywhere about the outskirts of his village-residence. Pagan as he shall outwardly appear, yet he soon shall be seen to be the hearty worshipper of whatsoever is sound and wholesome in Nature,—a piece of russet probity and sound sense that she delights to own and honor. His talk shall be suggestive, subtle, and sincere, under as many masks and mimicries as the shows he passes, and as significant,—Nature choosing to speak through her chosen mouth-piece,—cynically, perhaps, sometimes, and searching into the marrows of men and times he chances to speak of, to his discomfort mostly, and avoidance. Nature, poetry, life,—not politics, not strict science, not society as it is,—are his preferred themes: the new Pantheon, probably, before he gets far, to the naming of the gods some coming Angelo, some Pliny, is to paint and describe. The world is holy, the things seen symbolizing the Unseen, and worthy of worship so, the Zoroastrian rites most becoming a nature so fine as ours in this thin newness, this worship being so sensible, so promotive of possible pieties,—calling us out of doors and under the firmament, where health and wholesomeness are finely insinuated into our souls,—not as idolaters, but as idealists, the seekers of the Unseen through images of the Invisible.

I think his religion of the most primitive type, and inclusive of all natural creatures and things, even to "the sparrow that falls to the ground,"—though never by shot of his,—and, for whatsoever is manly in man, his worship may compare with that of the priests and heroes of pagan times. Nor is he false to these traits under any guise,—worshipping at unbloody altars, a favorite of the Unseen, Wisest, and Best. Certainly he is better poised and more nearly self-reliant than other men.

Perhaps he deals best with matter, properly, though very adroitly with mind, with persons, as he knows them best, and sees them from Nature's circle, wherein he dwells habitually. I should say he

inspired the sentiment of love, if, indeed, the sentiment he awakens did not seem to partake of a yet purer sentiment, were that possible,—but nameless from its excellency. Friendly he is, and holds his friends by bearings as strict in their tenderness and consideration as are the laws of his thinking,—as prompt and kindly equitable,—neighborly always, and as apt for occasions as he is strenuous against meddling with others in things not his.

I know of nothing more creditable to his greatness than the thoughtful regard, approaching to reverence, by which he has held for many years some of the best persons of his time, living at a distance, and went to make their annual pilgrimage, usually on foot, to the master,—a devotion very rare in these times of personal indifference, if not of confessed unbelief in persons and ideas.

He has been less of a housekeeper than most, has harvested more wind and storm, sun and sky; abroad night and day with his leash of keen scents, bounding any game stirring, and running it down, for certain, to be spread on the dresser of his page, and served as a feast to the sound intelligences, before he has done with it. We have been accustomed to consider him the salt of things so long that they must lose their savor without his to season them. And when he goes hence, then Pan is dead, and Nature ailing through-out.

His friend sings him thus, with the advantages of his Walden to show him in Nature:—

"It is not far beyond the Village church,
After we pass the wood that skirts the road,
A Lake,—the blue-eyed Walden, that doth
smile
Most tenderly upon its neighbor Pines;
And they, as if to recompense this love,
In double beauty spread their branches
forth.
This Lake has tranquil loveliness and
breadth,
And, of late years, has added to its charms;
For one attracted to its pleasant edge
Has built himself a little Hermitage,
Where with much piety he passes life.

"More fitting place I cannot fancy now,
For such a man to let the line run set
The mortal reel,—such patience hath the
Lake,
Such gratitude and cheer is in the Pines.
But more than either lake or forest's depths
This man has in himself: a tranquil man,
With sunny sides where well the fruit is
ripe,
Good front and resolute hearing to this life,
And some serener virtues, which control
This rich exterior prudence,—virtues high,
That in the principles of Things are set,
Great by their nature, and consigned to him,
Who, like a faithful Merchant, does account
To God for what he spends, and in what
way.
Thrice happy art thou, Walden, in thyself!
Such purity is in thy limpid springs,—
In those green shores which do reflect in
thee,
And in this man who dwells upon thy edge,
A holy man within a Hermitage.
May all good showers fall gently into thee,
May thy surrounding forests long be spared,
And may the Dweller on thy tranquil marge
There lead a life of deep tranquillity,
Pure as thy Waters, handsome as thy Shores,
And with those virtues which are like the
Stars!"

Staerk, Melanie. "On the Side Lines." SWISS REVIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS, XI (Sept. 1961), 18. On Thoreau's preference for the "mixed life," his affection and his happiness.

Sweeney, James Ross. "The Cosmic Drama in Thoreau's 'Spring,'" EMERSON SOCIETY QUART., XXIV (1961), 3-6. Analysis of the WALDEN chapter. Thoreau, Henry David. THOREAU YANCHE NEVDAK LEKH [Marathi]. Trans. by Pandharinath B. Rege. Bombay: G. P. Parachure prakashan mandir, 195? 99pp. Selected writings.

----- WALDEN: A WRITER'S EDITION. With commentaries by Larzer Ziff. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1961. 332pp. It is hard to imagine that with 150 or more editions of WALDEN already in existence, someone could make an altogether new and useful approach. But Mr. Ziff has done it. Accompanying the text of WALDEN is a series of analyses of the chapters demonstrating how rhetorically and grammatically Thoreau adapted his style to his subject matter. While the edition is aimed at college writing courses, any serious student of Thoreau will find Mr. Ziff's analyses thought-provoking and enlightening.

----- THOREAU-CHE SHRAMAJIVAN [Marathi]. Trans. by Vaman J. Kunte. Pavnar (Wardha): Paramdham Vidjapith, 1957 (2nd ed.), 86pp. Trans. of the "Economy" chapter of WALDEN.

----- A YANKEE IN CANADA. Montreal: Harvest House, 1961. 126pp. The first separate printing of this "excursion," with notes and introduction by Maynard Gertler. An Emulation Book.

W[heeler], R[uth] W. "Masonic Building Has Long History." CONCORD JOURNAL. Nov. 30, 1961. New information on Thoreau's teaching in the public

theories of aesthetics. Since Thoreau never formulated his ideas into an essay on the subject, Prof. Metzger has been forced to cull his ideas from the whole body of his work. As we might expect, Thoreau was more interested in the practical application than the theory of aesthetics, and it is perhaps in the field of architecture that he has the most pertinent comments to make. Thoreau was consistent in following the organic theory in every field of art. Prof. Metzger's book is a useful summary and evaluation of Thoreau's thoughts on the subject.

Miller, Perry. "The Responsibility of Mind." AMERICAN SCHOLAR, XXXI (Winter, '61-'62), 51-69.

An eloquent symptom of the dislocation between the sensitive mind and the confessedly insensitive environment in which the machines have corralled us is a steady enlargement of the popular regard for Henry Thoreau."

Moeckel, Fred. "On Thoreau's Grave." CONCORD JOURNAL. Jan. 4, 1962. A poem.

Sebenthall, R.E. "Thoreau." COLORADO QUARTERLY, X (Autumn, 1961), 133. A poem.

schools of Concord.

- , "A Yankee Trick." CONCORD JOURNAL. Dec. 14, 1961. Thoreau's JOURNAL solves a Concord surveying mystery.
- Willson, Lawrence. "The Great Reversal." DALHOUSIE REVIEW, XXXIX (Spring, 1959), 5-18. Contrasts present moral confusion in America to moral clarity of Thoreau and his contemporaries.
- Ziff, Larzar. "Walden: Considerations and Assignments." EXERCISE EXCHANGE, IX (Nov., 1961), 30-31. Excerpts from his commentaries in his edition of WALDEN.

THOREAU NOTES . . .

We are indebted to the following for information used in this bulletin: H. Adel, R. Adams, T. Bailey, M. Campbell, J. Davies, O. Floyd, P. Fradley, H. Gottschalk, D. Harrison, W. Houston, G. Hosmer, M. Kent, A. Kovar, V. Munoz, G. Megathlin, J. Morine, D. Moure, R. Needham, P. Oehser, W. Peterson, G. Rideout, G. Rady, R. Schaedle, H. Schroeder, E. Stockton, D. Semple, M. Sherwood, J. Tobin, C. Tweedy, A. Volkman, A. Wesley, W. White, S. Wellman, E. Wilson, and D. Williams. Please keep the secretary informed of new Thoreau items as they appear.

The cost of printing this bulletin has been covered by the life membership of Prof. Lawrence Willson of Goleta, Calif. and an anonymous subscription to the Cary Memorial Library of Lexington, Mass., in honor of Dr. Fred S. Piper. Life memberships in the Thoreau Society are \$25.00.

There are announcements out of many forthcoming books of Thoreauviana, among them a paperback edition of EXCURSIONS (Citadel Press), an anthology of commentaries on Thoreau, edited by Sherman Paul (Prentice-Hall), a variorum edition of WALDEN edited by Walter Harding (Twayne), and a pictorial biography of Thoreau, by Milton Meltzer and Walter Harding (Crowell).

The Post Office Department has replied to the Thoreau Society's resolution at the last annual meeting that they will not issue a Thoreau stamp in 1962.

Prof. Edwin L. Stockton, Northeast Louisiana State College, Monroe, La., has taken up Mr. Teale's challenge in a recent bulletin and has embarked on a new and more thorough index to Thoreau's journals.

Southern Methodist University Press announce that Walter Harding's THOREAU: A CENTURY OF CRITICISM, which has been out-of-print for several years, has now been re-issued.

Prof. James P. Poole, Acting Curator of the Jesup Herbarium at Dartmouth College, writes that the Herbarium has acquired a page from Thoreau's herbarium, with a mounted specimen of *Cyperus filiculmis* Vahl. It is apparently from that portion of Thoreau's herbarium that was given to his friend Edward S. Hoar.

At a recent exhibition of the paintings of Child Hassam (1859-1935) at the Hirsch & Adler Galleries (21 East 67th St, New York City) there was displayed a painting of Walden Pond done in 1890. There is a reproduction of the painting in ANTIQUES for July 1961.

The U. S. Steel Hour on T.V. on Nov. 1, 1961 was a satire on college life entitled "Little Lost Sheep!" The college lampooned was named Thoreau College!

G. R. Rady spoke before the St. James Literary Society in Montreal on Dec. 12, 1961, on "The Re-awakened God--Henry Thoreau."

Edwin Way Teale calls our attention to a puzzling entry in Thoreau's JOURNAL for July 12, 1855 (VII, 440) where Thoreau says, "Frank Forester in 'Manual

for Young Sportsmen," 1856, Page 308 says..." How did he thus quote from a book a year before it was published?

Leonard Kleinfeld tells us of a sign he found in the window of a Zooky's delicatessen on 2nd Ave. in New York City: "... and Thoreau also said: 'If I had my life to live over--I'd live over Zooky's.'" The only explanation the owner of the store would give was that an "artist" customer had asked him to put the sign in the window!

Vernon Pick, who a few years ago made national headlines by selling a uranium mine he has discovered in Utah for \$6,000,000 after taxes, has built himself a home in Saratoga, Calif., which he has named "Walden West" "in honor of one of his favorite authors, Henry Thoreau."

Goodspeed's Book Shop (18 Beacon St, Boston) is currently advertising a page of Thoreau's manuscript journal, commenting on the town of Bedford, for \$365.

Laurence E. Richardson calls our attention to the following paragraph in Z. E. Stone, "General Jackson in Lowell," in CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OLD RESIDENTS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF LOWELL, I, (June, 1879): "I remember very well on one occasion, some years ago, when listening to a lecture by a late Concord scholar and philosopher to have heard a most entertaining denunciation of those who find satisfaction in reading the mere news of the day; and I was amused by the speaker, so indifferent was he to what was going on outside of himself and the things he deemed of practical value, that he would not go to the corner of the street to see the world blow up! . . . To be sure, the Concord man was by some people called 'a child of nature' and took special delight in lying around on mother earth, indolently watching the active squirrels, the habits of fishes and characteristics of bugs and things; and I suppose he had a right to be indifferent to what was going on in the world among his fellow-men, and to spend his time as he pleased, if he paid taxes, which he didn't--willingly." Thoreau delivered a lecture in Lowell, Mass., on Sept. 9, 1860. Stone's comment would indicate that lecture was probably what later became his essay on "Life without Principle."

Miss Gertrude Rideout calls to our attention the following from Paul Henry's AN IRISH PORTRAIT (London: Batsford, 1951, p. 85): "I cannot help thinking that the seeds of my passion for the wilder and more remote parts of Ireland were sown when I first read Thoreau's WALDEN very many years before. At any rate I was living in one of the loneliest parts of Ireland and quite convinced that I was living as near the simple life as it is possible to get."

Members of the society will recall that in 1949 the society purchased from the Middlesex School a herbarium that had originally been owned by Thoreau's sister Sophia. The herbarium was later carefully mounted in plastic sheets by Mrs. Caleb Wheeler and is now in the Thoreau Society Archives in the Concord Free Public Library. Mrs. Wheeler now writes, "I found a JOURNAL quotation (VII, 49) about oak leaves eaten by an insect that is perfectly illustrated on one of the sheets of pressed leaves which we bought from Middlesex School. This makes me change my mind about whether they were Sophia's or Henry's. The writing on some is undoubtedly hers, but the collector--of some at any rate--must have been Henry." (See Bulletin #29).